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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing
communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 Enc. #/W

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD

FILE NO.

JFB-23997

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE DEC 30 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/1-11,30/52	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. COHENDET	BJC
TITLE YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - YU	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Most Yugoslav activities in San Francisco area continued to emanate from Yugoslav Consulate General. Consulate officials visited Yugoslav colonies in Southern California and in northwestern states during the Fall of 1952 and continued efforts to arouse support for present Yugoslav government. Pro-Cominform and Utashi groups not reported as particularly active during this period.

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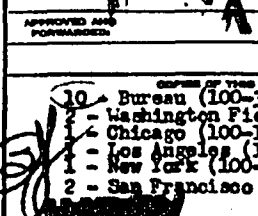
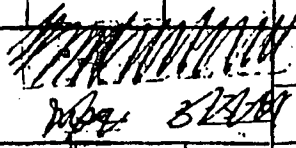
DETAILS:

All informants indicated by T symbols in this report are regarded as of known reliability unless otherwise indicated.

I. PRO-TITO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

San Francisco T-1 and San Francisco T-2, during the period of this report, advised that the Yugoslav Consulate General in the persons of the three officials stationed there continued to direct pro-Tito Yugoslav activity on the

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SF 105-297

West Coast. SF T-1 named these individuals as Consul General RAFO IVANCEVIC, Consul SINISA KOSUTIC, and Vice Consul Miodrag VITROVIC

A. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

1. ANDREJ ARTUKOVICH CASE

The case of ANDREJ ARTUKOVICH, former Minister of Justice in Croatia under the pro-Nazi ANTE PAVELIC during World War II, drew lessening attention from the Consulate as this matter was reduced to the legal arguments of drawing up an appeal from the ruling of the United States District Court in Los Angeles.

Consul SINISA KOSUTIC reported to his superiors that it was apparent that the followers of ANDREJ ARTUKOVICH had known in advance that the decision of the judge would be favorable to their side. SINISA KOSUTIC also stated that it appeared to him that the Serbs had decided that this trial was a political affair, and therefore the Serbian organizations should take no part in the action. (T-1, 9/8/52)

On September 25, 1952, Los Angeles Attorney RONALD WALKER came to San Francisco to discuss matters concerning the appeal, and it was disclosed that an attempt was being made to secure the interest of the United States Government in the case. (T-2, 9/25/52)

As of the end of this period, the case had not yet been settled. Consul General RAFO IVANCEVIC quoted on October 24 that the newspaper "Danica" had reported that ANDREJ ARTUKOVICH was to be the speaker at a Croatian meeting to be held at Chicago on October 26, 1952. RAFO IVANCEVIC asked Attorney WALKER if something could not be done to prevent this appearance, but WALKER believed that there would be no possible action that could be taken in this regard. (T-2, 10/24/52)

2. YUGOSLAV VOTING BLOC

Consul SINISA KOSUTIC exhibited interest in the possibility of the Yugoslav voting bloc.

In October, 1952, he discussed American politics with JOSEPH KERPAN, a San Francisco resident who was born in Croatia. SINISA KOSUTIC wondered if the Yugoslavs represented any certain voting groups and JOSEPH KERPAN stated that

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before that could be effective, they would need a leader who could claim influence over 50,000 votes. KOSUTIC felt KERPAN could be such a leader. JOSEPH KERPAN disagreed on this point. SINISA KO'UTIC hoped that the Yugoslavs could be able to show some power at the votin' polls. He pointed out that former Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States, COM. TANKIN OTIC, had spoken before influential Serbs at a meetin., thus seeking to influence the emigrants toward a "reactionary" view. (T-3, 10/10/52)

SINISA KO'UTIC also mentioned some instructions that he had had from the Embassy to visit Butte, Montana, with the express purpose of getting together a group of emigrants to call on Congressman NIKOLAI FIELD to promise him the support of the Yugoslav colony in the 1952 senatorial election in return for FIELD's support of "our position". (T-1, 9/8/52)

This informant did not have information as to what "our position" was.

3. INFILTRATION OF KACIK GROUP

Vice Consul TOMIS VETROVIC went to Los Angeles in October, 1952, to try to find out something of the Kacik people in Los Angeles whom he said centered on a Croatian Catholic Church in that city. (T-4, 10/24/52)

4. INTERNAL PROBLEM AT CONSULATE

San Francisco T-5 advised that Consul General RAPO IVANCEVIC claimed to be well connected with the influential leaders of the Yugoslav Government in Belgrade, and although he had one or two colleagues in the San Francisco Consulate who did not like him and who would not hesitate to hurt him, he was certain that because of influence, they would be unable to do him any harm. He indicated that the reason for this feeling was that he was not a Communist whereas he appeared to indicate that the individuals of whom he was speaking were Communists. In the past RAPO IVANCEVIC claimed to have been an Assistant Secretary of State and had been sent to California because of the large colony of Yugoslavs who had come from the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia, and his principal task was to win over these people. He also mentioned that he believed TITO would accept an invitation to visit the United States if such was tendered to him. (T-5, 11/16/52)

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B. POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY

1. ACTIVITIES BY CONSUL GENERAL RAFO IVANCEVIC

SF T-1 and SF T-2 stated that the officials at the Consulate continued with the pro-TITO political and propaganda activity. Over the Labor Day weekend in 1952, Consul General RAFO IVANCEVIC was in Fontana, California, at a Slovene outing. While there he was invited to stop at the home of JOSEPH DUK, 343 North Palmetto. (T-2, 8/27/52)

At the end of September and in early October, 1952, RAFO IVANCEVIC was in the Northwest states. He hoped to see MARKO WALLEY and ANTON JURAS of Tacoma, J. C. FELIA, MIKE WILCO, SIMON KALABRIN, and NICHOLAI, all of Seattle. (T-2, 9/26/52.)

RAFO IVANCEVIC also had the name of J. MARTINEZ (ph), 1217 Grand Avenue, Everett, Washington, as a good man to contact, having received his name from a woman named MRS. PRIJACIC of San Francisco, after he had told her he needed the identities of emigrants in Everett and Aberdeen who could introduce him to the colonists there. (T-2, 9/26/52)

In Portland, Oregon, RAFO IVANCEVIC planned to see VINCENT KUZMANIC and MARKO RUSNAR there. (T-2, 9/26/52)

RAFO IVANCEVIC planned to return to San Francisco on October 16, 1952 (T-2, 10/13, 14/52)

At the end of this period, RAFO IVANCEVIC planned to be in the Los Angeles area to participate in a celebration entitled "Day of Dependence" being sponsored by the San Pedro Yugoslav-American Club. He said he wanted to see various Yugoslav leaders while on this trip. (T-2, 11/26/52)

RAFO IVANCEVIC was also attempting to line up engagements for a Slovene musical group known as "The Octate" on the West Coast. He had the Reverend VITA MOUSEK of San Francisco come down to the Consulate and endeavored to induce him to organize an appearance of his group in the San Francisco area. (T-2, 11/10/52.)

RAFO IVANCEVIC had in his possession the names of the following clubs and individuals in the Yugoslav language field on the West Coast:

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San Francisco

☒ American-Yugoslav Club and Committee for Aid to Yugoslavia
Slovene

San Pedro

☒ Yugoslav - American Club
San Pedro

Fontana

☒ Slovene Club
Fontana

Eureka

☒ Croatian Fraternal Union
Eureka

Portland

☒ American-Yugoslav Club
Portland

Tacoma

☒ Slovenian Club
Tacoma

Seattle

Aberdeen

☒ JOE KOVACH
Aberdeen

Denver

☒ MARK ZVONAR
Denver

Butte

☒ M. M. PROGAN
Butte

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The reason for the above names was not disclosed to the informant. (T-1, 11/13/52)

2. ACTIVITIES BY CONSUL SINISA KOSUTIC

Consul SINISA KOSUTIC over the months that he has been in San Francisco has spoken with CHARLES CVETKOVICH, the editor of the Yugoslav-American Herald in San Francisco. This editor is a Serbian, and in the past has kept himself aloof from the officials at the Consulate. (T-2)

In October, 1952, SINISA KOSUTIC accused CHARLES CVETKOVICH of attacking him in his paper. He wanted CHARLES CVETKOVICH to accept an invitation to lunch so they could speak further on their mutual interests. CHARLES CVETKOVICH indicated that he would decide at a later time if he would accept the invitation. (T-2, 10/3/52)

CHARLES CVETKOVICH accepted such an invitation for October 29, 1952. (T-2, 10/28/52)

SINISA KOSUTIC has been noted as friendly with the Reverend DOBITEI CERADOVICH of the San Francisco Serbian Orthodox Church. SINISA KOSUTIC indicated a desire to have lunch with this priest on September 30, 1952. The Reverend accepted the invitation. SINISA KOSUTIC mentioned that it would be nice if Reverend DOBITEI CERADOVICH would go to the Congress of the Serbian Church, but CERADOVICH said that he had not yet decided if he would be going. (T-2, 9/27/52)

SINISA KOSUTIC was chosen to represent the Consulate at the annual Fishermen's Festival at San Francisco, and as of September 19, 1952, he was in the Los Angeles area preparatory to attending this event. He disclosed that he had spoken to M. K. WICK of Los Angeles who reported that a certain committee had met, that twenty-two persons had been present, and the bylaws were being prepared. The purpose of this committee was not divulged to the informant. Also while in Los Angeles, SINISA KOSUTIC visited with the Serbian Orthodox Priest, the Reverend MIRKO VUISICH. (T-2, 9/19/52)

On September 30, 1952, VASO (SAM) KENTERA, a Montenegrin of the Serb religion, said that he had to tell SINISA KOSUTIC about some important action that the "other faction" was about to start, and it was so important that SINISA KOSUTIC should immediately take steps to stop it. SINISA KOSUTIC indicated that he would discuss this matter further with VASO (SAM) KENTERA on October 1, 1952. (T-2, 9/30/52)

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On October 7 and 8, 1952, BOZO CALEB and TANE SPREMO came to the Consulate and on October 8, SINISA KOSUTIC told VASO (SAH) KENTERA that he had told the above two visitors what VASO (SAH) KENTERA had told him. Subject matter of this discussion was not disclosed to the informant. (T-2, 10/8/52)

SF T-2, later in the month, asked TANE SPREMO what had happened at a meeting of an undisclosed group which had attracted one hundred persons. No further information was provided by TANE SPREMO. (T-2, 10/21/52)

SINISA KOSUTIC planned another Los Angeles trip for November, 1952. He expected to contact CHARLES SPELLMAN of 1828 North Edgemont, Los Angeles, who was to have a press conference and meeting for SINISA KOSUTIC. (T-2, 10/28, 31/52)

After the trip SINISA KOSUTIC expressed the belief that everything had turned out well in Los Angeles. (T-2, 11/7/52)

SF T-1 advised that SINISA KOSUTIC was interested in securing a measure of cooperation between the film industries of the United States and Yugoslavia and had met men from the Hollywood motion picture business through his contact with SPELLMAN.

SINISA KOSUTIC asked the San Francisco Club (believed to be either the Sokol or the Sveti Vlaho) to put on a benefit show, at which time a representative of the charity organization "CARE" would exhibit colored slides. SINISA KOSUTIC suggested to JOSEPH KERPAN that he get music and singing groups to participate in this affair. (T-3, 10/10/52)

3. ACTIVITIES OF VICE CONSUL MICHRAO VITCROVIC

When MICHRAO VITCROVIC was in Southern California in October, 1952, he was observed by SA RUSH GLICK of San Diego as going to the former residence of a Serbian Orthodox Priest, MICHRAO VITCROVIC at 1922 First Avenue, San Diego. This priest was no longer living at the residence and it was noted that MICHRAO VITCROVIC remained at the location only five minutes. When MICHRAO VITCROVIC returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. in May, 1952, he was bearing instructions concerning the division of work among the officials in matters concerning the various colonies. The Consulate was instructed to report political information in a complete manner and reporting would be criticized. The officials were further urged to make as many friends as possible within the Croatian Fraternal Union. In the contact field, the importance of Americans was emphasized and it was indicated that they should not be overlooked. (T-1, 10/27/52)

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II. PRO-COMINFORN YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

A. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

During this quarter, no information concerning pro-Cominform Intelligence Activities was reported.

B. POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY

San Francisco T-6 advised that the Bay Area Yugoslav Pro-Cominform group continued to see JOSEPH HERPAN, mentioned above, as a frequent visitor at the Yugoslav Consulate and from him received important information concerning activities being undertaken at the Consulate. MARYA LIVODA of Boyes Hot Springs, California, was cited by SF T-6 as one of the leaders of this pro-Cominform group. (T-6, 10/1/52)

The Croatian Language Newspaper, "Narodni Glasnik", which customarily follows the Cominform line, received continued support from California Yugoslavs. This newspaper in its issue of July 16, 1952, Page 3, Column 5, had a communication from International Workers Order, Lodge #1284, Sacramento, concerning the death of a member, SIMO VASAREVICH, who was said to have always been active in the progressive movement. Page 189 in the 1952 "Narodni Kalendar" had a greeting from International Workers Order, Lodge #1370, Watsonville, California, hailing the class struggle of the people the world over against war and Fascism and the militant spread of the working people. They also wished a long life to "Narodni Glasnik" and the "Narodni Kalendar". This greeting was signed by eleven persons including JOSE VAVICH who, according to SF T-6, has been the leader of the Watsonville pro-Cominform group for a number of years.

It is to be noted that International Workers Order has been listed by the United States Attorney General as within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

San Francisco T-7 said that in the year, 1951, 215 people in Northern California were subscribing to "Narodni Glasnik". The Serbian language newspaper "Novosti", published at Chicago, Illinois, customarily follows the Cominform line, had some support from Northern California. The "Novosti Kalendar" for 1952 had advertisements from three persons in Mountain View, one in Sacramento, and one in San Francisco on Pages 126 and 127.

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III. MISCELLANEOUS YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN
THE UNITED STATES

A. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

No intelligence activities was reported.

P. POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA

The various Serb organizations previously mentioned continued to operate. SF T-2 observed that the vast majority of the Serb group in San Francisco continued to remain aloof from both the pro-TITO activities of the Consulate and from the pro-Cominform organizations.

SF T-6 said that the traditional Serb view continued to be presented in the San Francisco Yugoslav-American Herald, edited by CHARLES CVELKOVICH, mentioned above. LEO UECOVICH, the type setter for this paper, whom CHARLES CVELKOVICH has called a Communist, told Consul STANISLAV KOSUTIC during October, 1952, that he was still arguing with CVELKOVICH as to what political matters should be put into the paper. LEO UECOVICH said that the paper was running an anti-Yugoslav editorial at that very time dealing with some arguments the MIHAILOVICH group was having with the LOTACH group in Chicago. (T-2, 10/28/52)

As set forth in earlier months, the pro-Ustashi group held a picnic at Wapredak Park at Cupertino, California, June 1, 1952. San Francisco T-8 advised that this affair was under the direction of a Franciscan priest, (Father) MILAN PRIDKULICH, and it was to be for the purpose of rebuilding a bombed church in Yugoslavia. Only \$690.00 was realized from the affair which was considered something of a failure.

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